GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2975
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2004
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF RICE
Subba Shri Moni Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the year 2004 has been designated by the United Nations as the `International Year of Rice` with an aim to focus attention on improved production and access to this vital crop;

(b) if so, whether any special campaign or scheme has been launched for improved production of rice this year in Assam and the North-East region which is considered the Rice bowl of India; and

(c) the special assistance sought and given to North-Eastern States under the special drive indicating the likely yield of rice this year, State-wise compared to that during last two years?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): A number of activities have been taken up for observing 2004 as International Year of Rice to improve production of rice in the country including North-Western region. These include holding of National and International symposia/seminars/conferences and trainings, publicity for awareness about International Year of Rice and meetings etc. in different States.

(c): The Central assistance has been provided to States including North-Eastern States under the Centrally Sponsored scheme of Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice), subsumed under Macro Management of Agriculture since October, 2000 alongwith 26 other schemes, to take up different activities at their level for celebration of International Year of Rice. Under the scheme funds are released to the States/UTs in lump sum on the basis of their Work Plan proposal for all the 27 Schemes subsumed under Macro Management of Agriculture. In addition, certain activities of National and Zonal level have been directly supported by the Government of India. The State-wise rice yields are as follows:-

(Kg/ha)

S.No.	State	2002-03	2003-04#	2004-05#
1	Arunachal Pradesh	1224	1196	1250
2	Assam	1471	1512	1642
3	Manipur	2379	2264	2305
4	Meghalaya	1716	1667	1650
5	Mizoram	1912	1936	1964
6	Nagaland	1490	1603	1698
7	Sikkim	1436	1467	1500
8	Tripura	2265	2396	2714

= Figures are provisional/likely yield.